

U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Texas

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MOTHER SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 45-year-old Rebecca Linton was sentenced to eighty-four months in federal prison for her involvement in exploiting her minor daughter.

"It is the duty of every parent to protect their children.. That a mother would allow her child to be sexually exploited is horrifying. Rebecca Linton is now on her way to federal prison to pay for her crimes," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Rebecca Linton and her minor daughter began living with Donnie Earl Witt after his release from prison in Oklahoma. In the fall of 2003, the three began traveling from Oklahoma to Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. Linton took her minor daughter out of school and the three began living in motels. During this period, Donnie Earl Witt began having a sexual relationship with Linton's minor daughter and began taking Polaroid pictures of the young girl engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

On March 9, 2004, near Waco a Department of Public Safety Trooper pulled over the vehicle the three were traveling in for a traffic violation. As the Trooper was getting out of the car, they sped away and a high speed chase ensued. The Trooper was able to pull over the car whereupon he found the child pornography of Linton's minor daughter. When the Trooper asked Witt about the pictures, he stated, "There's nothing wrong with the pictures. We are a close family and we're not afraid to be naked together."

Rebecca Linton knew the nude pictures of her daughter had been taken by Donnie Earl Witt and knowingly possessed the child pornography of her daughter. Defendant Donnie Earl Witt is in custody and awaiting trial.

This case was investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Waco Police Department Crimes Against Children Unit and the United States Secret Service. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Greg Gloff.

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